REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have amended their claims to more particularly point out their invention, and request the Examiner to reconsider this application in view of the claim amendments above and the following remarks.

Applicants' pending application discloses, in an exemplary illustrative non-limiting implementation, an antenna array system (sometimes referred to as a "smart antenna system") having a couple of radiating element in at least two columns whereby the feeding systems of the radiating elements in both columns are different, in which however at least one radiating element or one group of radiating elements in one column is not fed with the other radiating elements in that column but with the radiating elements in the other column. This feature, which is reflected in the amended claims, distinguishes the claimed subject matter over the newly applied Smith reference.

The Examiner correctly points out that Smith discloses a multi-band base station antenna. Smith's antenna array is for at least two frequency bands having at least two columns with a couple of radiating elements the dimension of which differs depending on the frequency band. In each column, Smith provides the same number of radiating elements (for the higher or the lower frequency band).

Smith discloses, for example with regard to figure 3a, to use two columns for each single band of the shown two-band antenna. Normally, these radiating elements for one single frequency band positioned in two columns are fed together (i.e., with the same phase).

In contrast, in the exemplary illustrative non-limiting antenna implementation disclosed in the subject patent application, applicants provide a single column with many radiating elements whereby at least one radiating element or one group of radiating elements are horizontally offset to the other radiating elements of that column. An advantage provided by applicants' illustrative non-limiting implementation is that applicants can use a second column of radiating elements which is driven together with at least one single radiating element or one single group of radiating elements which is offset in the direction of the other column.

There is no hint in Smith that at least one radiating element positioned in one column is not fed together with the radiating elements positioned in the same column but with the radiating element positioned in the other column. Accordingly, all claims herein are fully patentable over the applied reference.

All outstanding issues have been addressed and this application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner should contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

Respectfully submitted,

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